

**What is claimed is:**

1. An antisense compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length targeted to a coding region of a nucleic acid molecule encoding human DC-SIGN (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein said compound is at least 70% complementary to said nucleic acid molecule encoding DC-SIGN, and wherein said compound inhibits the expression of DC-SIGN mRNA by at least 10%.

2. The antisense compound of claim 1 comprising 12 to 50 nucleobases in length.

3. The antisense compound of claim 2 comprising 15 to 30 nucleobases in length.

4. The antisense compound of claim 1 comprising an oligonucleotide.

5. The antisense compound of claim 4 comprising a DNA oligonucleotide.

6. The antisense compound of claim 4 comprising an RNA oligonucleotide.

7. The antisense compound of claim 4 comprising a chimeric oligonucleotide.

8. The antisense compound of claim 4 wherein at least a portion of said compound hybridizes with RNA to form an oligonucleotide-RNA duplex.

9. The antisense compound of claim 1 having at least 80% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding DC-SIGN.

10. The antisense compound of claim 1 having at least 90% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding DC-SIGN.

11. The antisense compound of claim 1 having at least 95% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding DC-SIGN.

12. The antisense compound of claim 1 having at least

99% complementarity with said nucleic acid molecule encoding DC-SIGN.

13. The antisense compound of claim 1 having at least one modified internucleoside linkage, sugar moiety, or nucleobase.

14. The antisense compound of claim 1 having at least one 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

15. The antisense compound of claim 1 having at least one phosphorothioate internucleoside linkage.

16. The antisense compound of claim 1 wherein at least one cytosine is a 5-methylcytosine.

17. A method of inhibiting the expression of DC-SIGN in a cell or tissue comprising contacting said cell or tissue with the antisense compound of claim 1 so that expression of DC-SIGN is inhibited.

18. A method of treating airway hyperresponsiveness in an animal comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the antisense compound of claim 1 so that expression of DC-SIGN is inhibited.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said airway hyperresponsiveness is associated with asthma.